



Christ Our Light Parish

Saint Benedict Catholic Church, Corner of North 7th Street & Gomber Avenue, Cambridge OH
Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory, 136 East High Avenue, Lore City OH

Mailing: Christ Our Light Parish Office, 701 Gomber Avenue, Cambridge, Ohio 43725

Phone: (740) 432-7609 **Fax:** (740) 439-0800 **Email:** col_office@catholicweb.com

Website: www.christourlightparish.com

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Chapel
and continues from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Church.

BAPTISMS: Families desiring baptism for their child must be registered in the parish. Parents must attend a preparation class.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Articles must be submitted in writing by noon on Wednesdays, inserts a week early, and are subject to approval by the pastor. Space is limited, so we reserve the right to edit.

f FACEBOOK PAGE: Live-Streamed Mass every day.
"Christ Our Light Parish, Guernsey County, OH."

HOSPITAL VISITATION: Please call immediately if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

MINISTRY TO THOSE IN NURSING HOMES, HOSPITALS, AND THE HOMEBOUND: If you or a loved one wishes to receive the Eucharist or have regular pastoral visits, please call the parish office.

RECONCILIATION:

St. Benedict Church - Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory - Sundays at 11:45 a.m.

And by Appointment

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Parish School of Religion (PSR) classes for children in grades K through 8 are held Sunday mornings from September to May.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA):

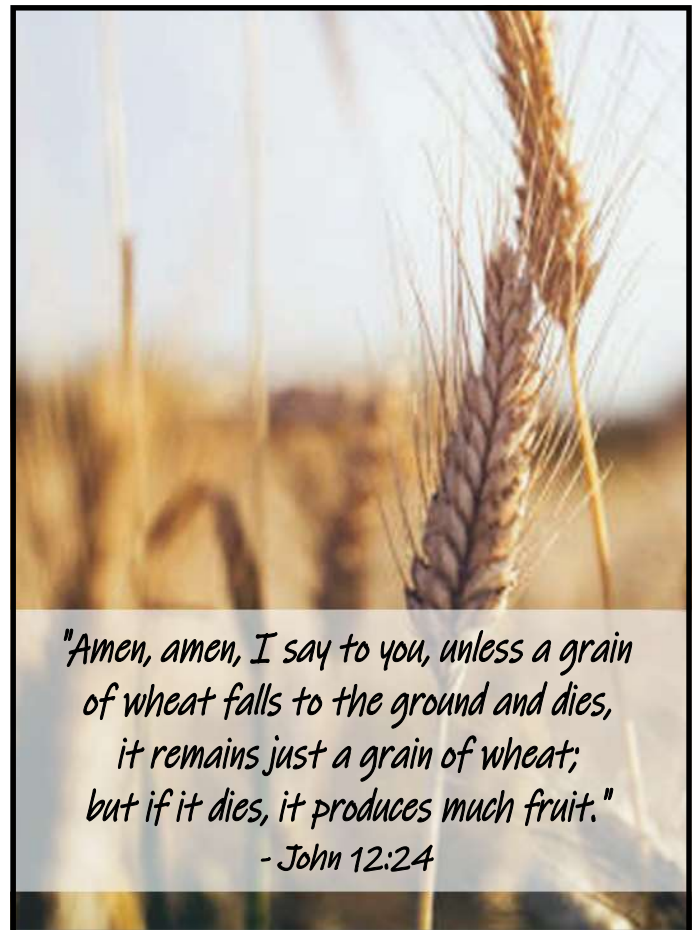
Adult preparation for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Call Fr. Hrezo or Pat Farley for information.

SCHEDULING MASS INTENTIONS: Anyone wishing to schedule Masses on special days, especially weekends, should do so at least 6 months in advance.

WEDDINGS: Arrangements must be made six months in advance.

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: Registration forms can be found at the church, oratory and parish office.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Sunday, March 21, 2021



"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

- John 12:24

Pastor

Fr. Paul Hrezo phrezo@diosteub.org

Pastor Emeritus

Fr. Robert D. Borer rdaleb9940@gmail.com

Office Manager

Therese Terrell col_office@catholicweb.com

Office Assistant

Nancy Bryan col_office@catholicweb.com

Director of Religious Education

Patricia Farley col_dre@catholicweb.com
(home - 740-439-2255)

Bulletin Deadline Noon Wednesday

Pastoral Minister

Sister Sharon Paul 740-255-5912 (cell - 740-680-1297)

St. Benedict Church Social Hall 740-432-6751 x 123

Parish Offices 701 Gomber Avenue

Office Hours 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Convent 319 North Seventh Street

Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity 740-255-5912

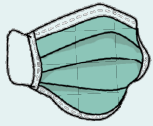
St. Benedict School 220 North Seventh Street

Phone 740-432-6751

Web Site www.stbenedictschool.net

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Web Site...www.colsvdp.org **Phone** ... 740-432-7609 x 207



NOT JUST A REMINDER: EVERYONE IS REQUIRED to wear a face mask at Mass and when in the church buildings. Not wearing a mask prevents others from attending Mass, Stations of the Cross, etc. Let's consider each other's health needs!

Mass Intentions for the Week of March 21, 2021

Saturday, March 20	5:00pm	SB	People of Christ Our Light Parish
Sunday, March 21 (Fifth Sunday of Lent)			
	8:00am	SB	† Sister Miriam Dosch by Albert and Sara Natale
	10:30am	SB	† Sally Hoey by the Grubbs, Grace and Lohman Families
	12:15pm	SSPP	† Joe Krall by the Medical Associates of Cambridge
Monday, March 22	8:35am	SB	† Albert DeStephen by Art and Lucy DeStephen Family
Tuesday, March 23	8:35am	SB	† Loretta Stahovec by Sister, Mary and Family
Wednesday, March 24	8:35am	SB	† Helen Davis (Birthday) by Children and Grandchildren
Thursday, March 25	8:35am	SB	† John L. Longinie (Birthday) by Norma Longinie and Family
	9:45am	SB	† Agnes, Irene and John Hodock by Clare Becker (School Mass, not open to the public at this time)
Friday, March 26	8:35am	SB	† Thomas Chappellear by John and Anne Barnett
Saturday, March 27	8:35am	SB	Intentions of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity
	5:00pm	SB	† Gene Bay by Mary Jamiel and Family
Sunday, March 28 (Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord)			
	8:00am	SB	† Alan Skeslock by Jim and Christine Larsen
	10:30am	SB	People of Christ Our Light Parish
	12:15pm	SSPP	† Deceased Members of Eugene and Maria Duke's Family by Richard and Helen Chesar

Ministers of the Altar for Saturday & Sunday, March 27-28, 2021

	Saturday (SB) 5:00 p.m.	Sunday (SB) 8:00 a.m.	Sunday (SB) 10:30 a.m.	Sunday (SSPP) 12:15 p.m.
Lectors	Peggy Adams Alycia Oswald	Sharon Miller Joe Miller	Alex Mullen Jacob Padden	David Krak Betty Duche'
Ushers	Donald Poole	Craig Stickelmeyer	Alan Bay	
Cantors	Audrey Kuklica	Mary Schlacks	Choir	



The Pro-Life Committee will meet this Sunday, March 21st, at 4:00 p.m. in the St. Benedict Church Marian Room. Join us to defend life from womb to tomb. Contact: Joyce Day at 740-584-3780.

Blood Pressure Screenings

Next Sunday, March 28, 2021

1:15 p.m.

Sts. Peter & Paul Rectory

Face masks are required and proper precautions and cleaning of equipment between persons will be followed.



Schedule for This Week

Sunday, March 21

After Masses Scrip Sales (SB Marian Room)
 9:15am Parish School of Religion (SB Church)
 11:30am Confession (SSPP Oratory)
 4:00pm Pro-Life Committee Meeting (SB Marian Room)

Monday, March 22

9:00am Rosary (SB Church)

Tuesday, March 23

9:00am Rosary (SB Church)

Wednesday, March 24

9:00am Rosary (SB Church)
 9:00am-4:00pm Eucharistic Adoration (SB Chapel)
 4:00-9:00pm Eucharistic Adoration Continues (SB Church)
 4:30pm Evening Prayer and Benediction (SB Church)
 6:30pm Holy Hour and Stations of the Cross (SSPP Oratory)

Thursday, March 25

9:00am Rosary (SB Marian Room)
 6:30pm RCIA (SB Social Hall)

Friday, March 26

9:00am Rosary (SB Church)
 6:30pm Stations of the Cross (SB Church)

Saturday, March 27

9:00am Rosary (SB Church)
 10:00am-4:00pm .. Permanent Deacon Formation (SSPP Oratory/Social Hall)
 3:30pm Confession (SB Church)

Sunday, March 28

After Masses Scrip (SB Marian Room)
 9:15am Parish School of Religion (SB Church)
 11:30am Confession (SSPP Oratory)
 1:15pm Blood Pressure Screening (SSPP Rectory)

Lenten Vocation Crucifix

All are invited to take part in the Vocation Crucifix Program this Lent. Each Sunday in Lent a family, couple or individual will be called forward at the end of Mass to receive the Vocation Crucifix. In taking the Crucifix they commit themselves to pray during the week for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Sign-up sheets are available in the Marian Room at St. Benedict Church and at the back of Sts. Peter & Paul Oratory. If you need more information, please call Jacob Padden at 740-421-1393.



Lenten Stations of the Cross

- 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday (Sts. Peter & Paul)
- 6:30 p.m. each Friday (St. Benedict)

Lenten Reconciliation (Confession)

- 11:30 a.m. each Sunday (Sts. Peter & Paul)
- 3:30 p.m. each Saturday (St. Benedict)



My Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ:

I want to express my personal gratitude to those of you who responded to the 2021 Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign - either through your financial support or through your prayers. Our parishes and ministries throughout the Diocese of Steubenville rely on your generosity to continue the Mission of the Church. Your generosity is a sign of your love for your Church and for one another.

For those who were unable to complete their pledge for the DPSC last weekend, additional pledge cards are available - either in your pews or at the entrances of the church. Please take a moment to complete a card. You can drop it in the offertory box or mail it directly to the diocese. You can also contribute to the campaign online at www.give.diosteub.org.

May the Lord continue to bless you and our beloved Diocese of Steubenville.

Yours in Christ,
 Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Monforton
 Bishop of Steubenville

Please note that this year:

Confirmation:

- Retreat on Saturday, April 10th, at Sts. Peter and Paul in Lore City
- Celebrated Sunday, April 18th, at 3:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Church



First Communion:

- Retreat to be held on Saturday, April 24th, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Benedict Church
- Celebrated Sunday, May 2nd, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Benedict Church



Prayer Requests

Please pray for all God's children who are ill, homebound or in nursing homes, and those who care for them.

Megan Archer, Judy Beaver, Larry Beck, Dorothy Bednarski, Joe Bennor, Whitney Benson, Kathy Billi, Bill Bodner, Steve Bodner, Frank Booth, Brinley Boyd, Imelda Bruney, David Callihan, Rosie Campbell, Diane Carkin, Jeff Carpenter, Patti Cartner, Milt Cerny, the Chesler Family, Monica Chicwak, Yung Chuang, Karen Chumney, Lee Cline, Mike Cowgill, Anita Cox, Jennifer Cox, Linda Delik, Peggy Ditto, Angie Doerfler, Carl James Duch, Michael Duke, Patty Eibel, Liam Elliott, Mary Evans, Don Fairchild, Betty Fannin, Jen Fannin, William "Buzzy" Ferguson, Irene Feyko, Marsha Finley, Greg Gibson, Pat Graven, Louise Hack and Family, Steve Hall, Dave Hanes, Stephen Hannum, Mark Hayes, Mary Ann Haynes, Violes Henry, Betty Hill, Karen Jakubisin Hinrichs, Dolly Hitzel, Ted Hoey, Angie Pruneski House, Sally and Payton Hubal, Laverne Ingles, David and Paul Iten, Rachel Jirles, Josh Jones, Diane Krall, William Kyser Jr., Amara Larrison, Martin Lehotay, Mary Long, Andrea May, Lisa McGregor, Joyce McPeak, Keagan Meek, Angela Merva, Haley Morris, Alice Orr, Mary Ann Pachuta, Christine Palmer, John Palmer, Dick and Frances Pavlov, Linda Pawlowski, Sally Pfalzgraf, Ben Pickenpaugh, Don Ross, Emma Ross, Mary Schmid, Jett Schmitt, Terri Scott, Vi Scott, Rosemary Sebek, Irene Sekel, Steve Shedlock Jr., John Shipley, Pat Siegwarth, Joe & Joan Sikora, Carys Singler, Mallory Smith, Mike Smith, William Smith, Ramona Springer, John Sprouse, Louie Stahovec, Mark Stahovec, Mary Stoner, Stephen Storch, Ken Stump, Loran Stutz, Chris Seward, Steve and Ethel Stasny, Margaret Urdak, Valerie Wallo, Gerald Warner, JoMarie Wasik, James Weidlich, Matthew Wentzel, Bill and Cathy Whitmire, Diana Whitmire, Don & Grace Whitmore, Jodie Williams, Andrea Yakubik, Helen Yakubik

Offertory for March 13-14, 2021

Adults	\$6,317.40
Children	2.00
Miscellaneous	26.00
Religious Education	50.00
Catholic Relief Services	357.00

Weekly Budget Amount Needed..... \$9,000.00

We ask your prayers for all men and women serving in our armed forces and those who put themselves in harm's way to protect and serve others, especially those connected to our parish:

Steven Barrows, Makenzi Carna, Becky Chesar, Phillip Cram, Carl Duch, Scott Fearn, Josh Fletcher, Luke High, Travis Jackson, Jeremy Jones, Stephen J. Kraizel IV, Michael Kuhns, Joshua Lucas, Ryan McGough, Jeff McKnight, William Miller, J.C. Minarchek, Josh Norris, Anthony Stevens, Trever Terrell, Jesse Walters, Sean Weir, Steven Whaley, Zac Wilson, Ethan Wray



Prayer List

Have you asked that your name or that of a loved one be placed on one of our prayer lists **and he/she has recovered or is no longer in the military?** Please let the office staff know. Call us at 740-432-7609.



Please Pray for our Priests

March 21	Msgr. Donald Horak Rev. Timothy Kozak
March 22	Rev. John McCoy Rev. Patrick Gaughan
March 23	Rev. William Cross Msgr. James Boehm
March 24	Our Holy Father
March 25	Rev. Dennis Gang, TOR Rev. Vincent Cornett
March 26	Rev. Victor Cinson Rev. Thomas Vennitti
March 27	Rev. Timothy Huffman Msgr. Kurt Kemo
March 28	Rev. Thomas Chillog Rev. Bernard Geiger, OFM CONV

The Chalkboard
ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL
Faithfully Educating God's Children
Since 1911

Happy Spring! The snow is all finally melted and students are enjoying the warm weather at recess. This past Friday we welcomed back "St. Ben's Den". Students were able to purchase small trinkets and treats at lunch-time. Our Jr. High students did a great job "running the store"!

Friday, March 26, will be a Remote Learning Day as the faculty and staff receives their second COVID-19

vaccine during the school day. March 26th is also the last day of third quarter.

Registrations of returning students look great and classes in the lower grades are starting to fill up. We look forward to welcoming back several of our students who had chosen to be home-schooled during this year of uncertainty. We are also accepting registrations and scheduling individual tours for new students for the 2021-2022 school year. Information regarding all scholarship opportunities can be obtained by contacting the school office. Don't forget to spread the word to family and friends about our wonderful school.

Please continue to pray for our students, staff and school as we journey through this year with "Jesus as our Guide".

In His Name, Sue Sanders



Holy Thursday, April 1st

9:00am Morning Prayer Service (SB)
 7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (SB)
 8:00pm-Midnight..... Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (SB)

Good Friday, April 2nd

9:00am Morning Prayer Service (SB)
 Noon-3:00pm..... Private Prayer & Meditation (SB/SSPP)
 2:30pm Stations of the Cross (SB/SSPP)
 3:00pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy (SB)
 7:00pm The Lord's Passion (SB)

Holy Saturday, April 3rd

9:00am Morning Prayer Service (SB)
 4:00pm Blessing of Easter Food (SB)
 8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass (SB)
 At Mass Easter Collection for Those in Need

Easter Sunday, April 4th

All Masses Easter Collection for Those in Need
 8:00am Mass at St. Benedict
 10:00am Mass at St. Benedict
 10:00am Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul
 12:00noon Mass at St. Benedict

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
CASH BONANZA
TICKETS ARE HERE!



Take a chance to win one of 25 PRIZES totaling \$108,000. All you need to do is to buy a winning ticket. Tickets are only \$5 each or 4 for \$20.

Your participation gives us the opportunity to support charitable causes, such as the Salvation Army, Right to Life, St. Benedict School, Christ Our Light Parish, St. Vincent de Paul, Freedom House (Cambridge's homeless shelter), homes that were hit by fire, special needs kids, and more. We distributed approximately \$8,000 last year. Because of a challenging 2020, it took away our fundraising breakfasts and fish fries.

This year at our Council's first ticket turn-in we will draw a ticket and give \$250 to the lucky winner! The winning ticket will then go back into the State Council drawing of \$108,000. You could actually win twice!

To purchase tickets see a local Knight, get tickets at the Church office, contact John Sprouse at 740-432-3254 or Ron Engott at 740-685-5759. If you would like to make a DONATION, you can place a check in the church collection made payable to the *Knights of Columbus #1641* and in the memo space, write *donation*. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

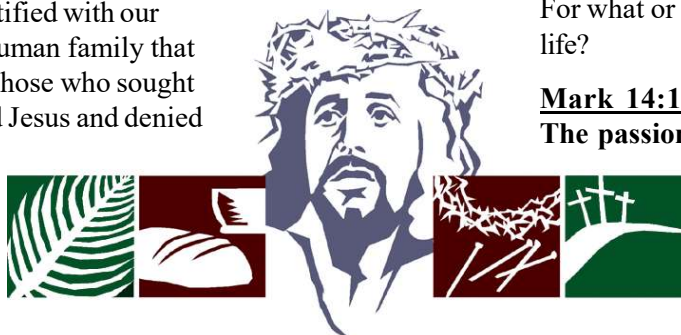
READINGS FOR PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

March 28, 2021

“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”
These words spoken by Jesus on the cross reveal the depths of the suffering our Savior endured for our sins. As we enter into the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us cry out for mercy and pardon for our sins.

We live in a world broken by pride and false identity.

The Gospel for the Procession with Palms (Mark 11:1-10) is a beautiful hymn of unconditional love, the creed of those who would “think and live like Christ.” Jesus, eternal God, humbled himself to be identified with our human family - even the same human family that would lead him to his passion! Those who sought their own importance humiliated Jesus and denied his identity—Messiah, Beloved Son, Temple of God, Savior of the World. They put him to death but God raised him up



and proclaimed his true identity—Jesus Christ is Lord!

Isaiah 50:4-7

I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

How have you experienced being asked to sacrifice for someone else?

Phillipians 2:6-11

He emptied himself taking the form of a slave, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

For what or whom would you lay down your life?

Mark 14:1-15:47

The passion and death of our Lord

Jesus Christ.

Take time this week to read the passion according to St. Mark.

We could place our focus during next Sunday's readings on several points. We could focus on the entrance of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem and on much symbolism and on the fulfillment of many prophecies described by St. Mark. Or we could put our focus on the Passion Narrative that we read next Sunday as well. Palm Sunday is also known as Passion Sunday. We could probably call it “*Full Range of Emotions*” Sunday!

We begin the Palm Sunday Mass by reading from Chapter 11 of the Gospel of St. Mark at the door of the church. We read that Jesus arrived into Jerusalem from the East side of the city using a road that first went through the villages of Bethany and Bethphage. The Old Testament prophet Ezekiel had a vision of the glory of the Lord leaving the Temple and then returning to it using that same road. Jesus' return to Jerusalem was indeed celebrated with a sense of hope that the glory of Israel was returning and that Jesus would ultimately drive out the Roman conquerors.

But Jesus came to prepare for a more profound kingdom, which is why Jesus focused so much on the Temple in Jerusalem rather than on King Herod's palace or on the Roman governor or the Roman army. Many of Jesus' teachings in the time between his arrival into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and his death later in the week on Good Friday were about problems of the worship at the Temple

in Jerusalem. For example, the Passion Narrative that we read from the Gospel of St. Mark begins in Chapter 14. We read there about when Jesus cleansed the Temple of the money changers. Then, as Jesus was on the cross the people who jeered at him said, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross.” At the moment of Jesus' death we read that the sanctuary veil in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. At his death, Jesus passed through the veil of the heavenly Temple, according to the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews (6:19, 8:1-6), fulfilling the sacrifices offered in the Temple in Jerusalem.

The Temple in Jerusalem can also represent our souls. So, the return of Jesus and the purification of the Temple followed by his death and resurrection can describe the Lord establishing a more profound kingdom in each of our hearts. He wants to reign at the very center of our hearts and lives. During Lent we ask the Lord to triumph over those aspects of our lives that are like the people who jeered at Jesus, disappointed at the way that he reigns, wanting more of an earthly kingdom rather than one that is a preparation for the gift of eternal life.

May next week's “Full Range of Emotions” Sunday, both the Palm Sunday aspects **and** the Passion Sunday aspects, help us to become more open to the reign of Jesus in our hearts, in the way that he knows is best for us.

Pastor's Letter

It is time to start repeating these Mass times for Easter and letting others know about them, too:

8, 10 and 12! 8, 10 and 12!

So, again, our times for Masses on Easter Sunday are:

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and Noon at St. Benedict Church in Cambridge and at 10:00 a.m. at Sts. Peter & Paul in Lore City. That is because typically that 10:00 a.m. time is the most highly attended and so by offering a parallel Mass at 10:00 a.m. in Lore City as well as another Mass at Noon at St. Benedict we hope to spread out the attendance a bit more.

If you are concerned about being at a crowded Mass on Easter, please plan to attend the Noon Mass at St. Benedict or even the 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday evening. The Easter Vigil Mass is also the anchor Mass of the year where we celebrate adult baptisms, adult confirmations and welcome participants in the RCIA program into full communion with the Church.

I spoke with the representative for organizing the pilgrimage to the Holy Land this past Wednesday and he told me that although all of the tourist sites in Israel should be opened by mid-April, the sites in Palestine -- including Bethlehem -- will remain closed. In fact, he said that the situation of the people in Bethlehem is very serious because they remain isolated and in

lockdown with very little access to needed supplies. Let us keep them in prayer.

Therefore, we have formally postponed the pilgrimage to October 11-22, 2021, trusting that the sites in Palestine should be opening by mid-summer.

I have been highly encouraged by the response for planning an outdoor activity together on Saturday morning, April 17th. At least a half-dozen parishioners have expressed interest in participating in a hike together at Salt Fork that morning. We're planning on beginning with a level but scenic trail for our first hike! Definitely more about this in the next couple of weeks!

Thank you for participating in this year's DPSC (Diocesan Parish Share Campaign). We as a parish have benefited recently from funds back from the DPSC by helping to fund the salary for Fr. Jonas when he was here serving as our Parochial Vicar, and helping us to host some of the Permanent Deacons spiritual formation activities at Sts. Peter & Paul in Lore City. We no longer have fees for annulments throughout the Diocese as well thanks to the funds from the DPSC. Again, thank you for participating in this annual campaign.

May Our Lord Jesus, through the powerful and protective intercession of St. Joseph, help us to always be ready for the gift of eternal life in Heaven!

Update

Walk Where Jesus Walked



Join Fr. Paul Hrezo and *Crown of Bethlehem Tours* for a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Egypt **which has now been postponed to October 11-22, 2021.**

Our tour conductors informed me that we are still awaiting clearance from the authorities in Israel.

Close to 80% of the people in Israel have already been vaccinated. Sites and shops in Israel will be opening in

mid-April. However, we have heard that the sites in Palestine will not be opening until, hopefully, later this summer.

For registration information, please call Fr. Paul at 740-432-7609. The pilgrimage remains \$3,550 per person, round trip from Pittsburgh.



be asked to join together in prayer for a specific request so the entire Body of Christ can unite around a common focus. (You are encouraged to check the website for more info ... www.40Daysforlife.com)

Devotional for Day 33, Sunday, March 21

Intention: May we absorb the truth that God is paying attention to us, and to each human life, personally and individually.

Scripture: When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. — Psalm 8:3-9

Prayer: Lord, you are the creator of all things. Guide my thoughts to consider your creation in all of its majesty, beauty and holiness. Guide my heart especially to your creation of precious human life. Help me to comprehend how essential life is in your own heart. Teach me to appreciate, love and protect all human life through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Devotional for Day 34, Monday, March 22

Intention: May we come to know that divine life, in relationship, creates human life.

Scripture: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. — John 1:1-3

Prayer: O God, may we always be quick to call you Father. And when we call you father, let your Spirit remind us that we, and all people, from their beginning to their last day, are your children. We praise you, Father, that you sent your Son to reveal to the world that all people are His brothers and sisters, that all people are your children. Through Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

Devotional for Day 35, Tuesday, March 23

Intention: Pray for post-abortive women who cannot forgive themselves; may they understand that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Scripture: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sin is covered. Blessed is the one to whom the Lord shall not impute sin. — Romans 4:7-8

Prayer: Our Most Gracious Heavenly Father, thank you for your amazing grace that saved a wretch like me. I come against the enemy of my soul who would have me feel cast down and dejected. Lord, keep your children from falling prey to the accusations of the father of lies.

The visible, public centerpiece of 40 Days for Life is a focused, 40-day, non-stop, round-the-clock prayer vigil outside a single Planned Parenthood center or other abortion facility. Each day during 40 Days for Life (which happens to correspond with Lent this year), individuals, churches, families and groups will

Turn our mourning into dancing and may we bring praise to you as we give testimony of Your healing and restoration in our lives. For by His grace we are saved, amen.

"40 Days for Life is a life-changing experience, an exercise in sacrifice for the needs of others, an appeal to your heart to love the innocent, defend the helpless and embrace the needy. Babies waiting to be born are all these things as are their mothers. Expectant moms need more than lip service, and 40 Days for Life has given those gifts on the streets of this nation and in the homes of loving Americans."

- Judie Brown, President, American Life League

Devotional for Day 36, Wednesday, March 24

Intention: We pray for the gift of openness to children.

Scripture: God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." — Genesis 1:27-28

Prayer: Father of mercy and grace, we thank you for the gift of our children. Grant that every fiber of our being may rejoice when a new baby, our own or any else's, is born into the world. Help us to welcome them as we would welcome you, for whenever a new baby is conceived, another life to bear your image and another voice to praise and worship you, is beginning. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Devotional for Day 37, Thursday, March 25

Intention: Pray that we will each submit ourselves this day as a living sacrifice to God, giving all that we have in us for those being sacrificed on the altar of convenience.

Scripture: I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. — Romans 12:1

Prayer: God Almighty, You alone are worthy of our praise and worship. Having accepted Your Son's sacrifice on my

behalf, I in turn present my body to you as a living sacrifice. Thank you for deeming me holy and acceptable because of Christ's shed blood for me. I pray that you would use me as your vessel to rescue others who are perishing. Through Christ who is Our Glory, amen.

Devotional for Day 38, Friday, March 26

Intention: Pray that those standing in peaceful vigil will extend mercy and grace to others as they remember that Christ did not treat us as our sins deserve.

Scripture: You have heard it was said, 'you shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. — Matthew 5: 43-44

Prayer: Heavenly Father, may we reflect your character of grace and kindness to those who hate us and curse us. Guard our hearts and our tongues as we respond in love to words and actions meant to rile us or cause us harm. Let others see the Hope that is Christ in all we say and do. In His precious name we pray, amen.

March 12, 2021:

Within hours of taking the first abortion pill, Manuela knew she had made a terrible mistake. *"When we got home later that night, we both just broke down,"* said Manuela's boyfriend Chris. *"It was just devastating. We knew it was the wrong choice and we regretted it very much."* Desperate to save the life of their child, Manuela and Chris called Planned Parenthood to ask whether there was any way to reverse the abortion pill. **A Planned Parenthood employee laughed at them.**

Fortunately, Manuela and Chris didn't give up. They found an Abortion Pill Reversal doctor, who saved their baby!

The couple shared their story — and their gratitude for their now-six-month-old son — with attendees of a recent 40 Days for Life rally in Greenville, South Carolina. *"This cause is so important to me because it saved my life,"* Manuela told rally participants. ***"I would never have the relationship that I have with God today if it weren't for this decision."*** Manuela explained that she was abortion-minded because she failed to trust in God. ***"But today I know for sure that God is holding me in His Hands,"*** she continued. ***"He has provided for every single need."***

Devotional for Day 39, Saturday, March 27

Intention: Pray that volunteers will replace exhaustion or discouragement with rejoicing over the miracles we have seen thus far, and enthusiastic service as God takes us on to victory!

Scripture: In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ. — 1 Peter 1:6-7

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we sing to You a new song, for You have done marvelous things. Forgive us when we allow circumstances to defeat us. You give power to the faint and You increase strength in those who have no might. We rest in You dear Lord, and ask You to empower us again for Your service as You work out Your plan for us and through us. May You receive glory through our victory in Christ, in whose name we pray, amen.

Devotional for Day 40, Sunday, March 28

Intention: Let us keep our eyes fixed on the New Jerusalem, where death will be no more.

Scripture: He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" — Revelation 21:4-5

Prayer: Father, you are the God of hope. Your word fills us with the vision of the world to come, when every tear will be wiped away, and death will be no more. Father, how we need that hope, how we are strengthened by that vision! Keep our hearts focused on heaven, and diligent in the labors of earth. As we struggle against the culture of death, root our souls in the assurance of victory. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Devotional for Day 41, Monday, March 29

Intention: Pray that the witness of 40 Days for Life bears abundant fruit, and that we begin again each day to storm the gates of hell until God welcomes us into the gates of heaven.

Scripture: He will wipe every tear from their eyes. On this rock I will build my church; the gates of hell will not prevail against it. — Matthew 16:18

Prayer: Father, we praise you. We have heard the voice of your Son, and therefore we can make our voices heard. We have done battle with the power of evil, and therefore we can have compassion on those still within its grip. We have been freed from the kingdom of darkness, and therefore we can bear witness to your Kingdom of Light. May the witness of all your people through these 40 Days for Life bear abundant fruit, and may we begin again each day to storm the gates of hell until You welcome us into the gates of heaven. We pray in the victorious name of Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

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